

[Please amend claim 2 (twice amended) as follows:]

2. (Thrice Amended) A beneficial microorganism propagation-promoting material obtained from the steps comprising:

mixing together a product for promoting propagation of beneficial microorganisms and a resistant starch; and wherein

said product for promoting propagation of beneficial microorganisms that help to sustain the health of living beings is obtained by inoculating koji mold on solid form grains to create a koji preparation resultant, adding a maximum of 50% by weight of water to said resultant to thereby hydrolyze proteins and/or saccharides contained in said resultant, during said hydrolysis said koji mold and said beneficial microorganisms contained in said resultant and/or added to the resultant are symbiotic in the resultant and propagation of said beneficial microorganisms is promoted when said beneficial microorganisms receive nutrients from the resultant so that said koji mold and said beneficial microorganisms are cultivated together in said resultant, and removing a predetermined amount of phytic acid contained in said grains; and

said resistant starch becomes a nutrient of lactic acid bacteria that grows in the intestines of animals.

Please amend claim 5 (twice amended) as follows:

5. (Thrice Amended) A process for preparing a beneficial microorganism propagation-promoting material which promotes propagation of a beneficial microorganism that helps to sustain the health of living beings, said process comprising the steps of:

inoculating koji mold on solid form grains to create a koji preparation resultant, adding a maximum of 50% by weight of water to said resultant to thereby hydrolyze proteins and/or saccharides contained in said resultant, during said hydrolysis said koji mold and said beneficial microorganisms contained in said resultant and/or added to said resultant are symbiotic in the resultant and propagation of said beneficial microorganisms is promoted when said beneficial microorganisms receive nutrients from said resultant so that said koji mold and said beneficial microorganisms are cultivated together in said resultant, and